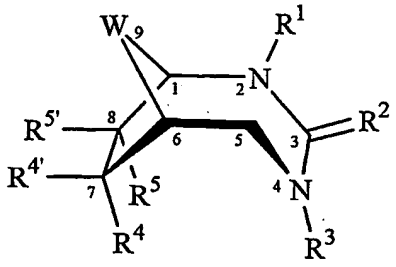
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Additions are shown by double underlining. Deletions in the text are shown by double brackets for words or phrases containing less than five letters and by strikethroughs for words containing five or more letters. Deletions in the formulas are shown by strikethroughs.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for the treatment of an HCV infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula (I):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

(a[[j]]) each $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] [[-]]$NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is hydrogen;

(b[[k]]) each $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] $NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, [[or]] halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is hydrogen;

(c[[l]]) each $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, halogenated alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or acyl;

(d[[m]]) $R^1$ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or aminoacyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(e[[n]]) $R^2$ is oxygen, sulfur, [[-]]$NR'_2$, or [[-]]$CR'_2$, wherein each R' is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(f[[o]]) $R^3$ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or aminoacyl of $C_1$-$C_6$ ~~($C_1$, $C_2$, $C_3$, $C_4$, $C_5$, $C_6$)~~;

(g[[p]]) alternatively if $R^2$ is [[-]]NR', then $R^1$ or $R^3$ can come together with [[-]]NR' to form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-7 membered ring that can include one or more heteroatoms; or

(h[[q]]) if $R^2$ is [[-]]$CR'_2$, then $R^1$ or $R^3$ can come together with [[-]]$CR'_2$ to form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-7 membered ring that can include one or more heteroatoms; or

(i[[r]]) if $R^2$ is [[-]]$CR'_2$, then $R^1$ and $R^3$ can come together with [[-]]$CR'_2$ to form a substituted or unsubstituted bicyclic ring that can include one or more heteroatoms; and

(j) W is O or $CH_2$;

optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

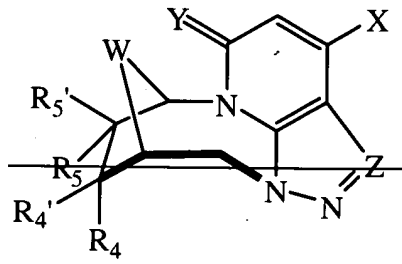
2. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein $R^5$ and/or $R^{5'}$ is OH.

3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein $R^5$ or $R^{5'}$ is a residue of an amino acid.

4. (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the amino acid is valine.

5. (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein the amino acid is L-valine.

6. (Currently Amended): A method for the treatment of an HCV infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the general formula 1 (A-D), 2 (A-D), 3 (A-B), 4 (A-B), 5 (A-B), 6 (A-B), 7 (A-C) or 8 (A):



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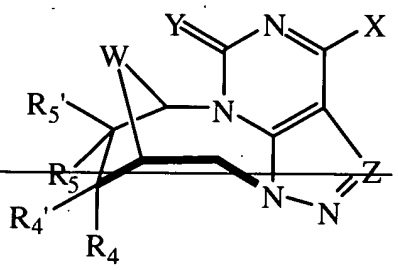

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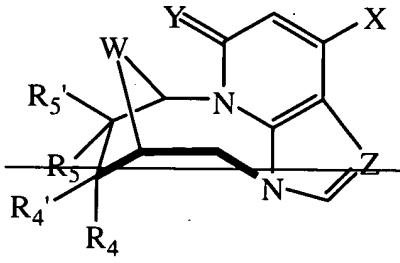

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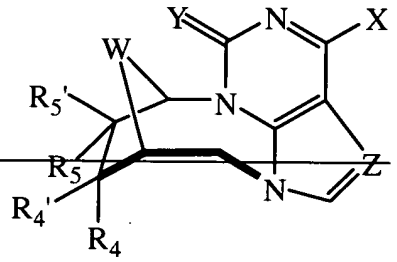

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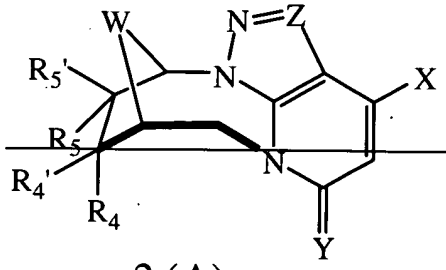

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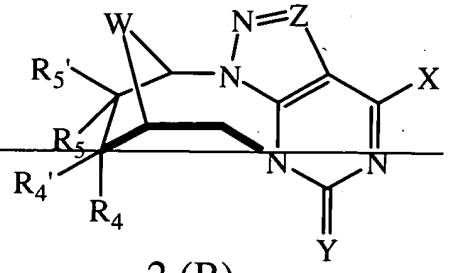

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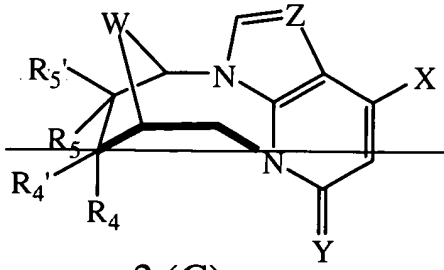

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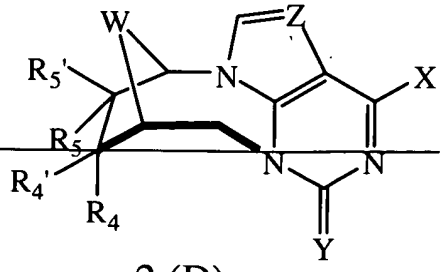

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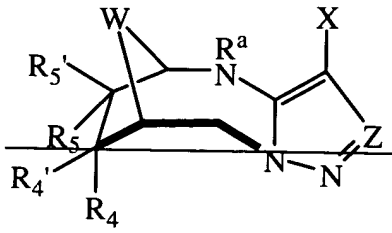

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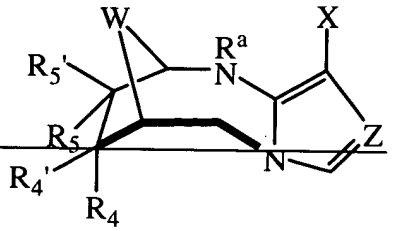

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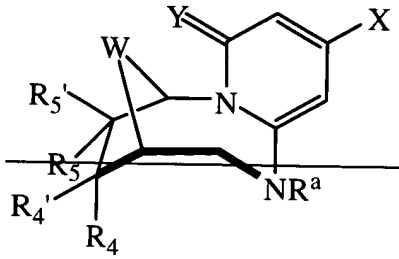

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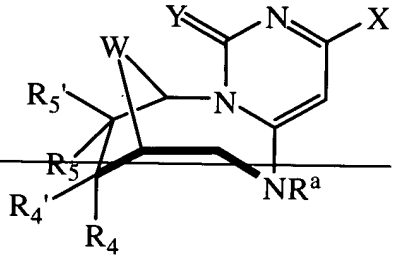

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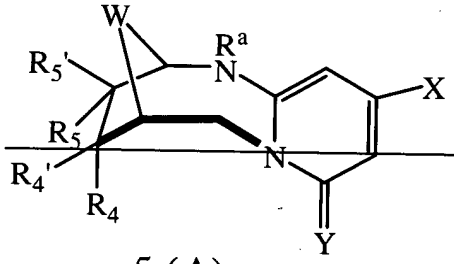

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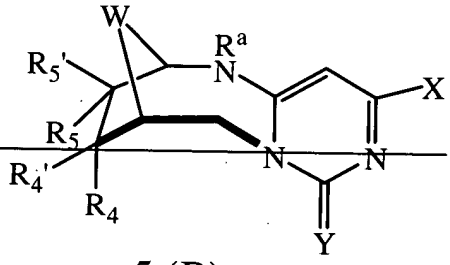

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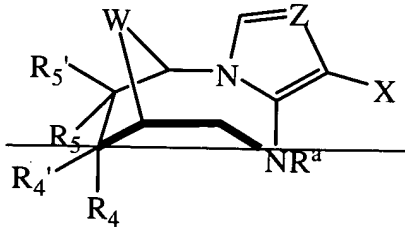

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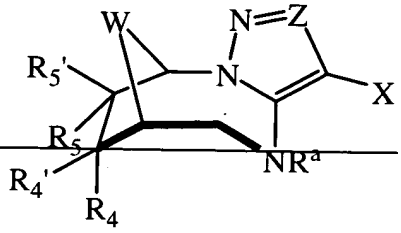

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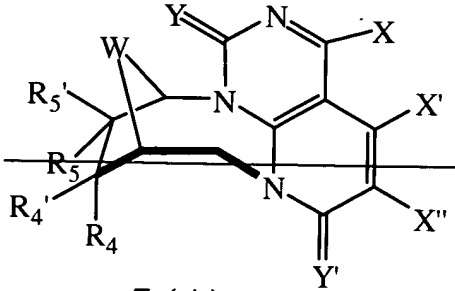

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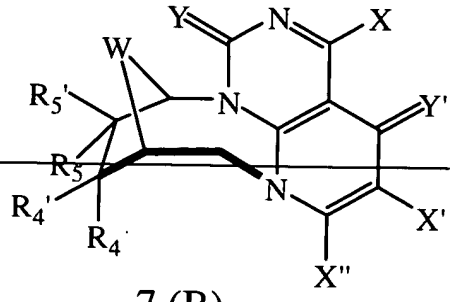

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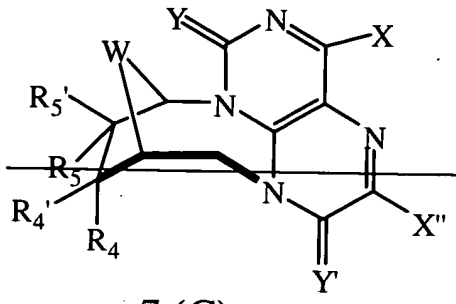

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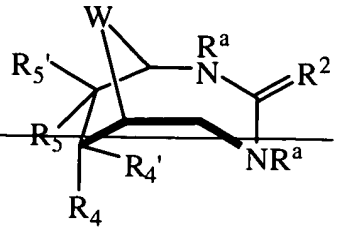

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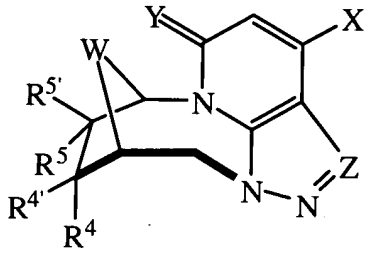

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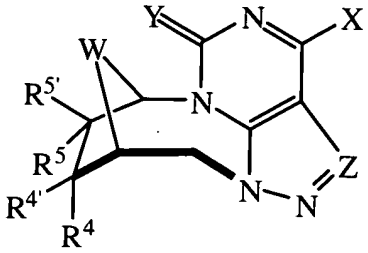

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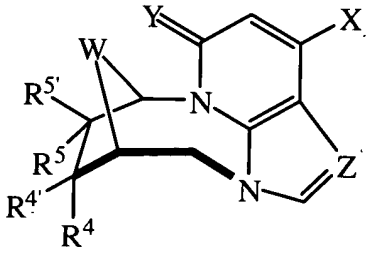

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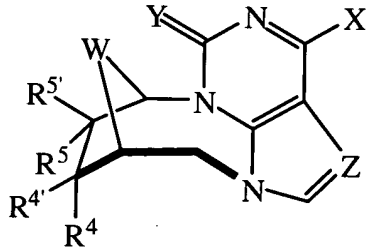

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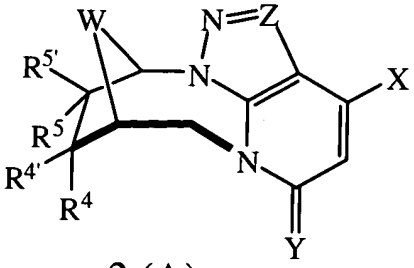

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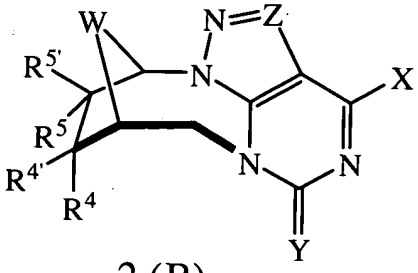

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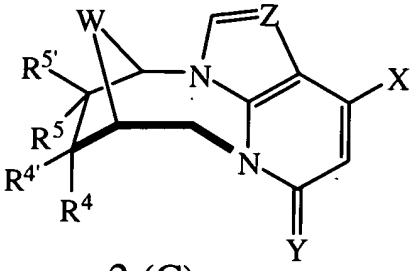

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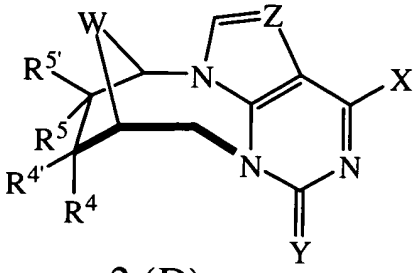

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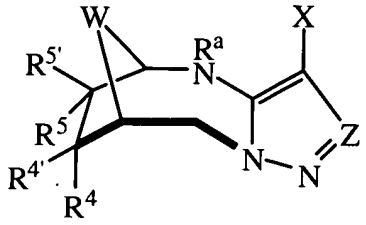

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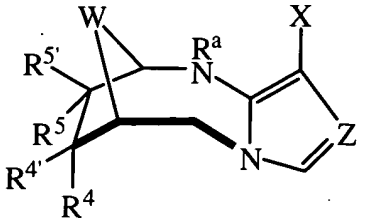

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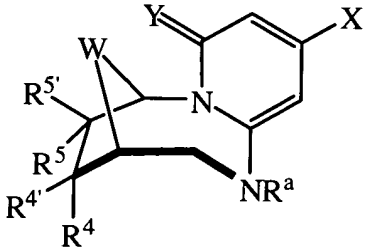

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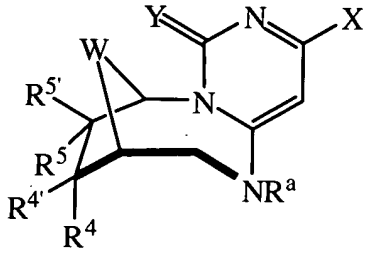

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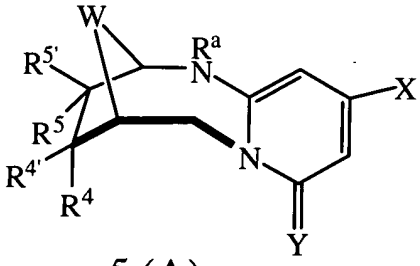

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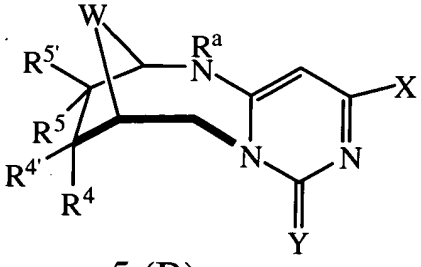

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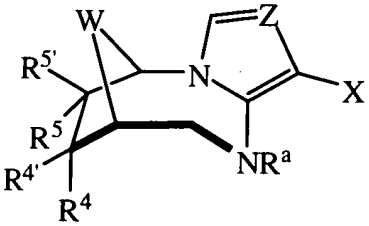

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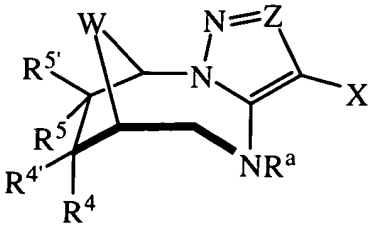

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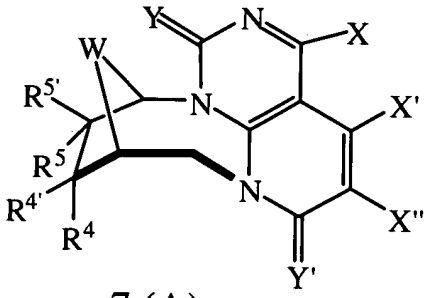

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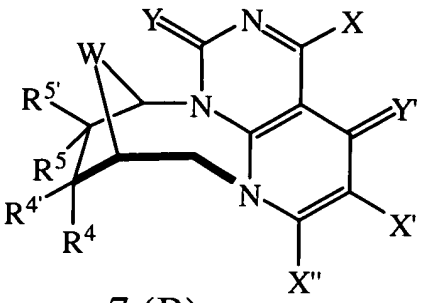

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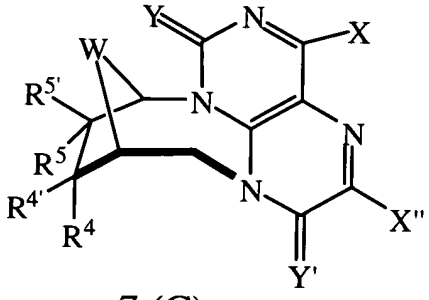

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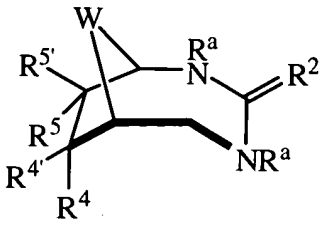


8 (A)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

(a) each $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), ~~psuedohalogen~~ pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] [[-]]$NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is hydrogen;

(b) each $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), ~~psuedohalogen~~ pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] $NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is hydrogen;

(c) each $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, halogenated alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or acyl;

(d) $R^2$ is oxygen, sulfur, [[-]]$NR'_{\pm}$ or [[-]]$CR'_2$, wherein each R' is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(e) [[each]] ~~Z, Z' and Z"~~ is ~~independently~~ CH, $CX_{\pm}$ or N;

(f) each X, $X'_{\pm}$ and X" is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Cl, $Br_{\pm}$ or I), $NH_2$, $NHR^c$, $NR^cR^{c'}$, $NHOR^c$, $NR^cNR^{c'}R^{c"}$, OH, $OR^c$, $SH_{\pm}$ or $SR^c$;

(g) each Y and Y' is independently O, S, NH, $NR^c$, $NOR^c_{\pm}$ or Se;

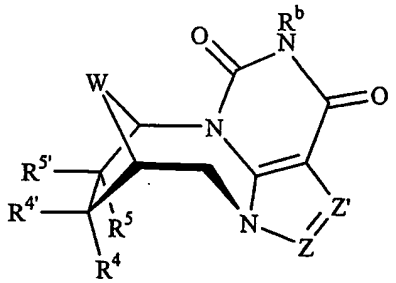
(h) each $R^a$ is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, aminoalkyl, $aminoaryl_{\pm}$ or aminoacyl of $C_1$-$C_6$; [[and]]

(i) each $R^c$, $R^{c'}_{\pm}$ and $R^{c"}$ independently is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, aryl, or arylalkyl such as unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or benzyl, cycloalkyl, ~~cylcopropyl~~ or cyclopropyl; and

(j) W is O or $CH_2$;

optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

7. (Currently Amended): A method for the treatment of an HCV infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the general formula:




or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

(a) each $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), ~~psuedohalogen~~ pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] [[-]]$NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is hydrogen;

(b) each $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), ~~psuedohalogen~~ pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] $NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is hydrogen;

(c) each $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, halogenated alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or acyl;

(d) $R^2$ is oxygen, sulfur, [[-]]$NR'_{\pm}$ or [[-]]$CR'_2$, wherein each R' is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(e) each Z[[,]] and Z' ~~and Z"~~ is independently CH, $CX_{\pm}$ or N;

(f) [[each]] X~~, X' and X"~~ is ~~independently~~ hydrogen, halogen (F, Cl, $Br_{\pm}$ or I), $NH_2$, $NHR^c$, $NR^cR^{c'}$, $NHOR^c$, $NR^cNR^{c'}R^{c''}$, OH, $OR^c$, $SH_{\pm}$ or $SR^c$;

~~(g) each Y and Y' is O, S, NH, $NR^e$, $NOR^e$ or Se;~~

~~(h) each $R^a$ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or aminoacyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;~~

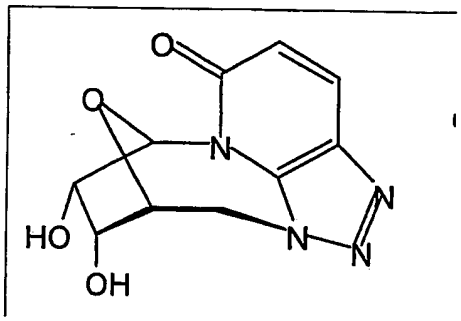
(g[[i]]) $R^b$ is $R^c$, $OR^c$, $NH_2$, $NHR^c_{\pm}$ or ~~$NR^cR^{c'}$~~ $NR^cR^{c'}$; [[and]]

(h[[j]]) each $R^c$, $R^{c'}_{\pm}$ and $R^{c''}$ independently is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, aryl, or arylalkyl such as unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or benzyl, cycloalkyl, ~~cylcopropyl~~ or cyclopropyl; and

(i) W is O or $CH_2$;

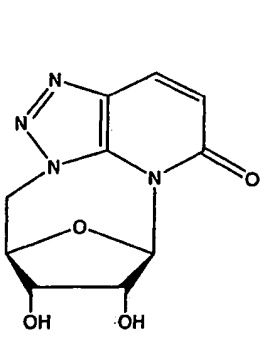
optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. (Currently Amended): A method for the treatment of an HCV infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the ~~general~~ formula:

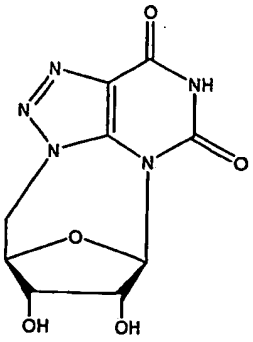


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

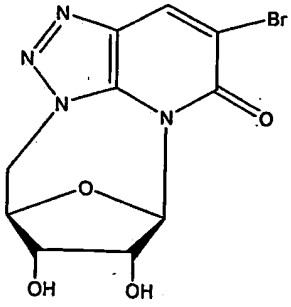
9. (Currently Amended): A method for the treatment of an HCV infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the ~~general~~ formula:



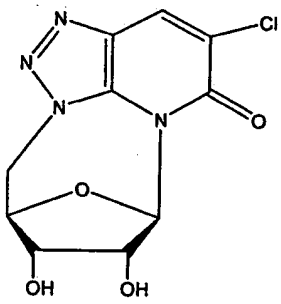
1 (J)



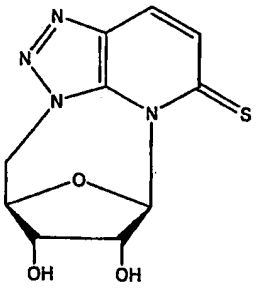
1 (K)



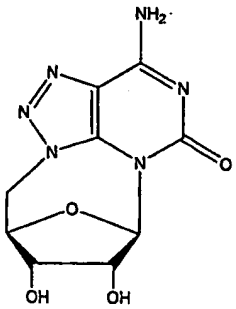
1 (L)



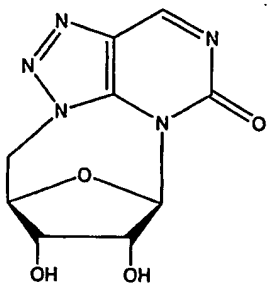
1(M)



1 (N)



1 (O)



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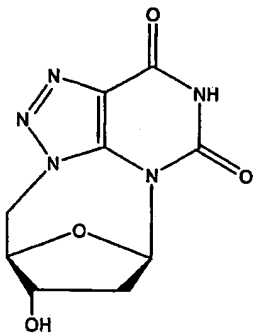
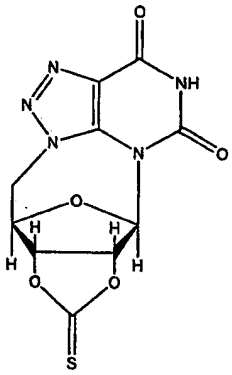


1 (Q)



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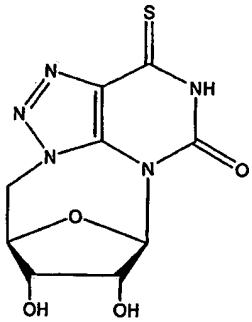

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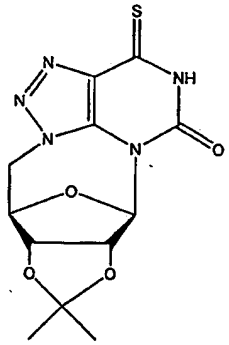

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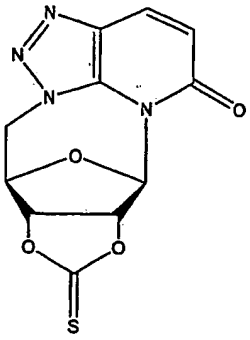

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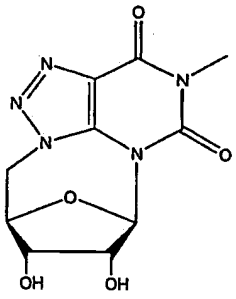

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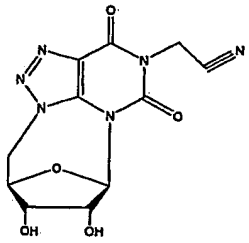
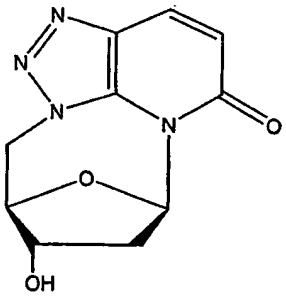
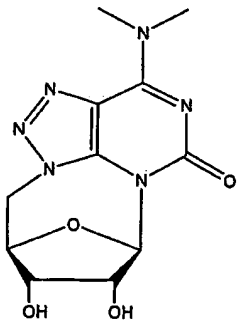


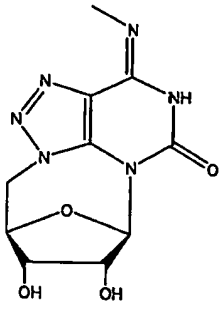
1 (W)



1 (X)



1 (Y)



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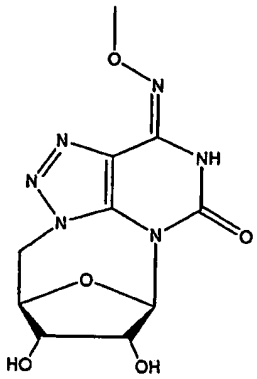

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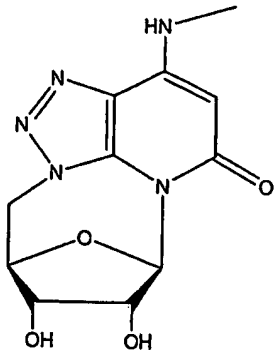
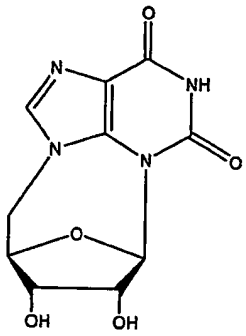


1 (AB)



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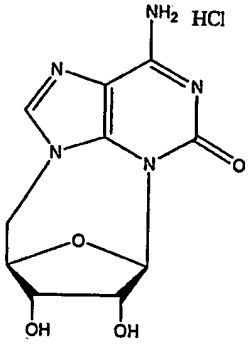
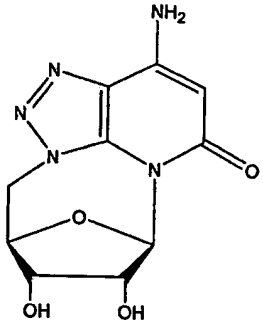
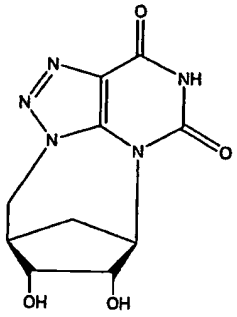


1 (AD)



1 (AE)



1 (AF)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

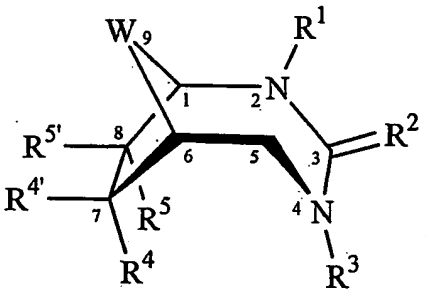
10. (Original): The method of any one of claims 1, 6, 7, 8, or 9, further comprising administering to the host in combination and/or alternation one or more effective anti-viral agents, optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the anti-viral agent is selected from the group consisting of ribavirin, interferon, ~~PEGASYS~~ [[(]]pegylated interferon alfa –2a[[)]], ~~INFERGEN~~ [[(]]interferon alfacon-1[[)]], ~~OMNIFERON~~ [[(]]natural interferon[[)]], ~~ALBUFERON~~ albinterferon alpha 2b, ~~REBIF~~ [[(]]interferon beta-1a[[)]], [[O]]omega [[I]]interferon, [[O]]oral [[I]]interferon [[A]]alpha, [[I]]interferon gamma-1b,

[[I]]interleukin-10, ~~IP-501,~~ [[M]]merimebodib ~~VX-497~~ , ~~AMANTADINE~~ amantadine ~~(Symmetrel)~~, ~~HEPTAZYME, IDN-6556., XTL-002, HCV/MF59,~~ hepatitis C immune globulin ~~CIVACIR~~, levovirin ~~LEVOVIRIN~~, viramidine, ~~VIRAMIDINE, ZADAXIN~~ [[(]]thymosin alfa-1[[)]], ~~CEPLENE~~ [[(]]histamine dihydrochloride[[)]], and telaprevir. ~~VX-950 / LY-570310, ISIS-14803, IDN-6556 and JTK-003~~.

12. (Original): The method of any one of claims 1, 6, 7, 8, or 9, wherein the host is a human.

13. (Currently Amended): A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

(a) each $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] [[-]]$NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is hydrogen;

(b) each $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] $NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is hydrogen;

(c) each $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, halogenated alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or acyl;

(d) $R^1$ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or aminoacyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(e) $R^2$ is oxygen, sulfur, [[-]]NR', or [[-]]CR'$_2$, wherein each R' is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(f) $R^3$ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or aminoacyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(g) alternatively if $R^2$ is [[-]]NR', then $R^1$ or $R^3$ can come together with [[-]]NR' to form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-7 membered ring that can include one or more heteroatoms; or

(h) if $R^2$ is [[-]]CR'$_2$, then $R^1$ or $R^3$ can come together with [[-]]CR'$_2$ to form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-7 membered ring that can include one or more heteroatoms; or

(i) if $R^2$ is [[-]]CR'$_2$, then $R^1$ and $R^3$ can come together with [[-]]CR'$_2$ to form a substituted or unsubstituted bicyclic ring that can include one or more heteroatoms; and

(j) W is O or $CH_2$;

optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

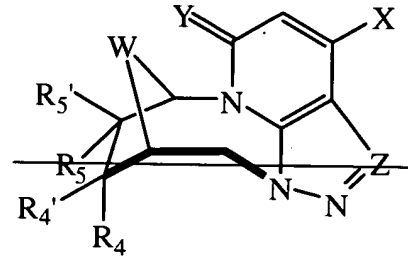
14. (Original): The compound of claim 13, wherein $R^5$ and/or $R^{5'}$ is OH,

15. (Original): The compound of claim 13, wherein $R^5$ or $R^{5'}$ is a residue of an amino acid.

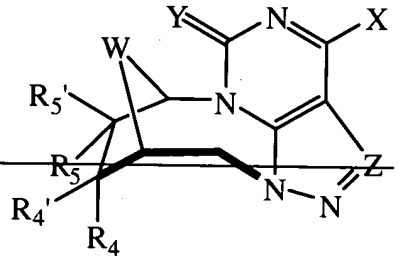
16. (Original): The compound of claim 15, wherein the amino acid is valine.

17. (Original): The compound of claim 15, wherein the amino acid is L-valine.

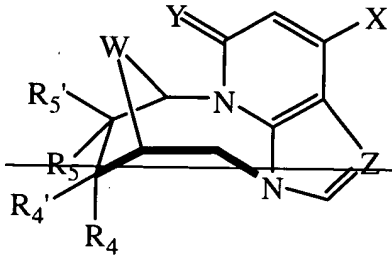
18. (Currently Amended): A compound of the general formula 1 (A-D), 2 (A-D), 3 (A-B), 4 (A-B), 5 (A-B), 6 (A-B), 7 (A-C) or 8 (A):



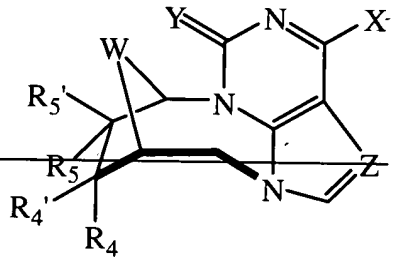
1 (A)



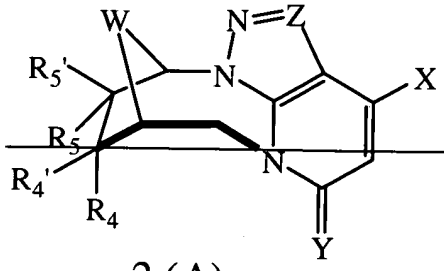
1 (B)



1 (C)



1 (D)



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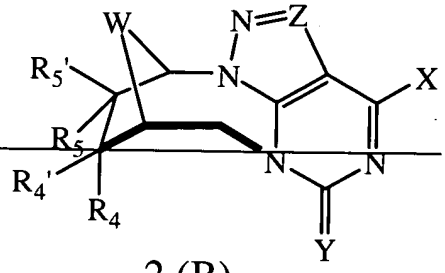

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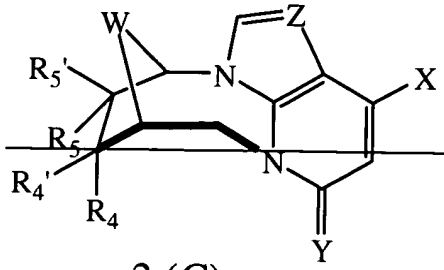
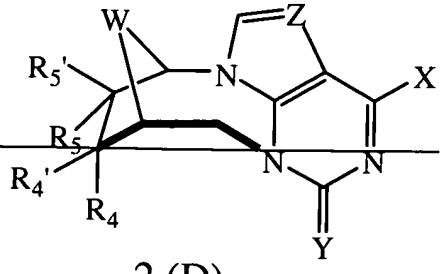


2 (C)



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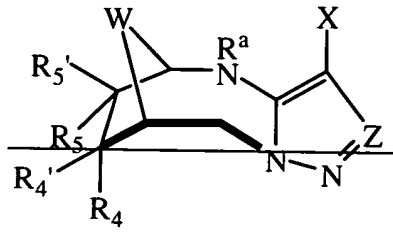
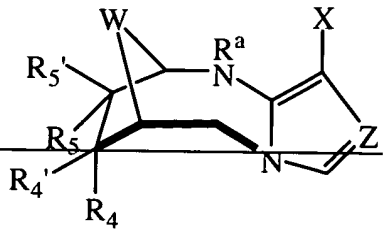


3 (A)



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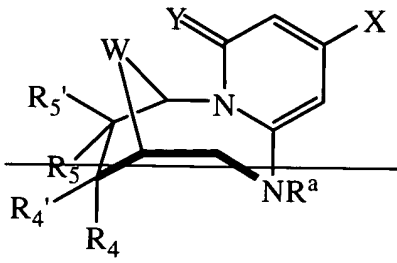

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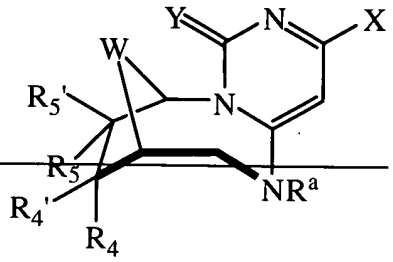

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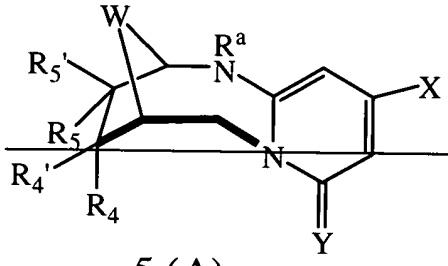

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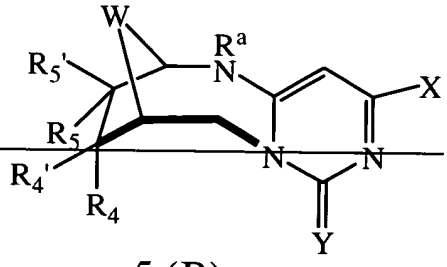

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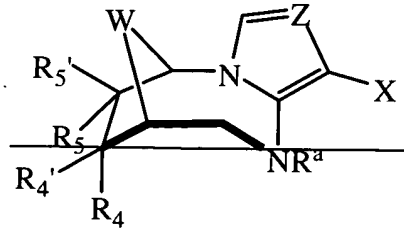
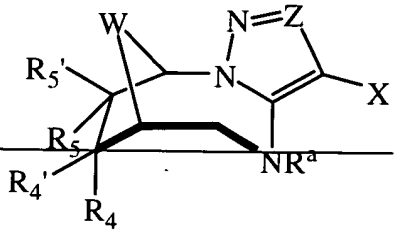


6 (A)



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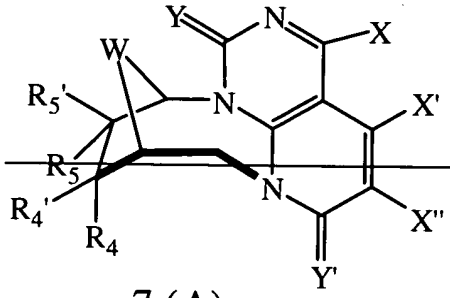
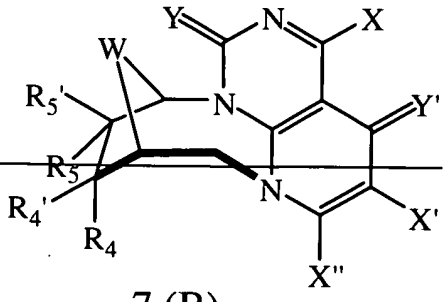


7 (A)



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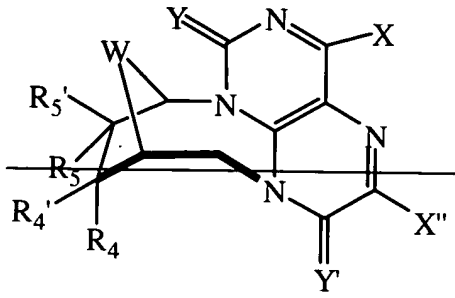
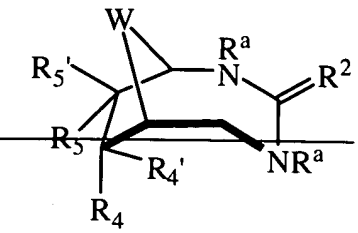
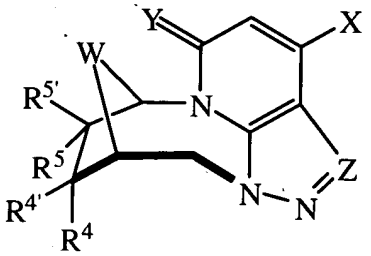


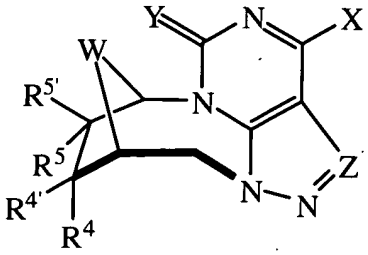
7 (C)



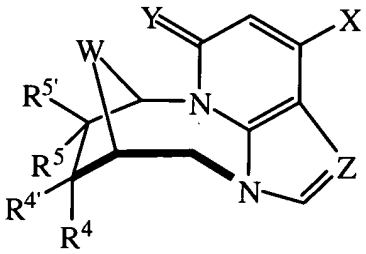
8 (A)



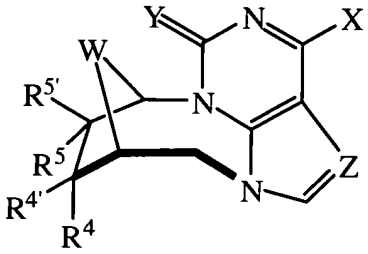
1 (A)



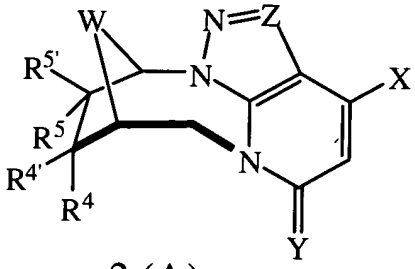
1 (B)



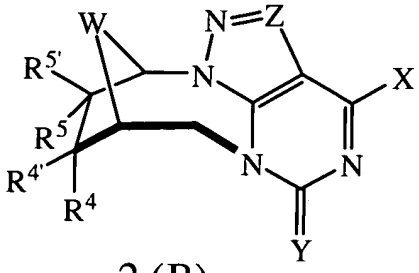
1 (C)



1 (D)



2 (A)



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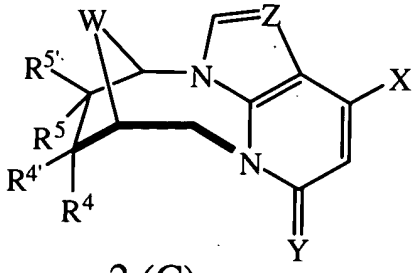
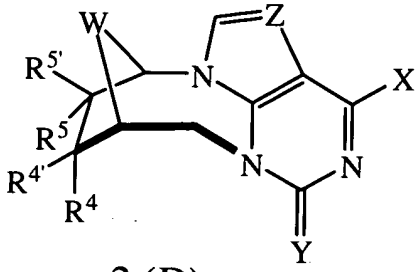
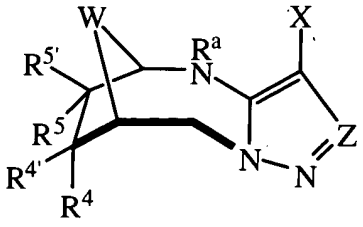


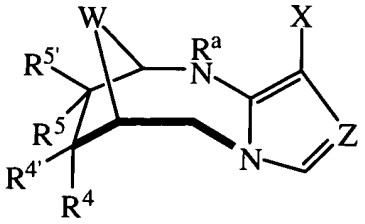
2 (C)



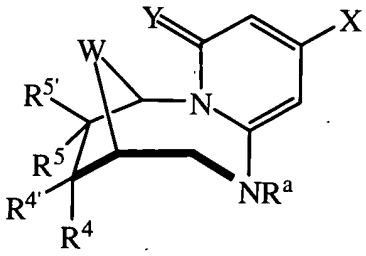
2 (D)



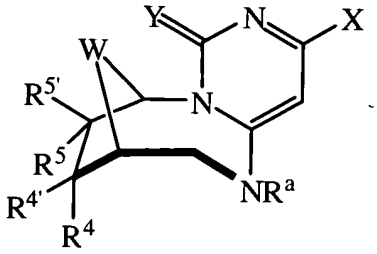
3 (A)



3 (B)



4 (A)



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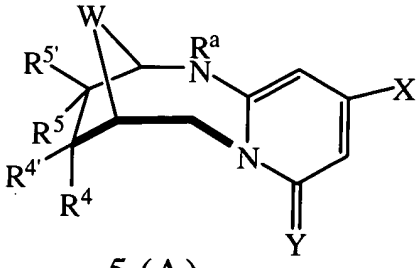
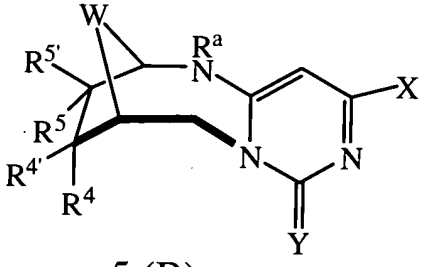


5 (A)



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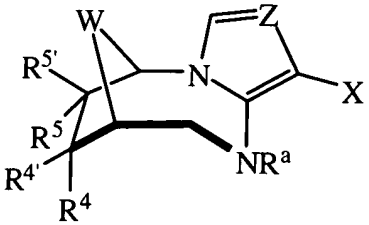
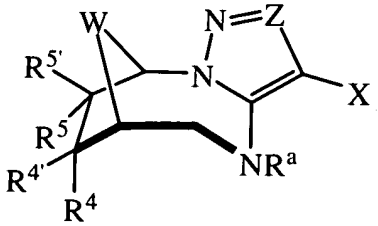
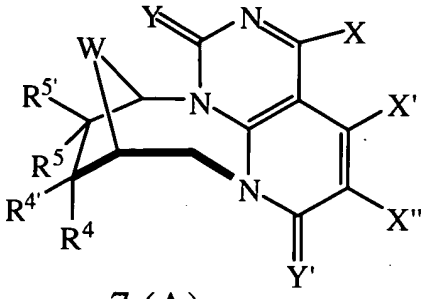


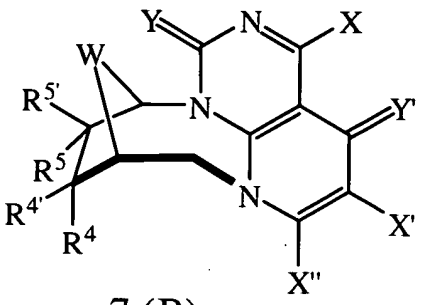
6 (A)



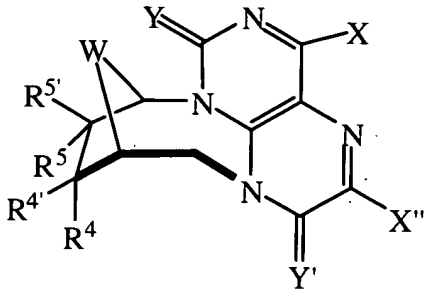
6 (B)



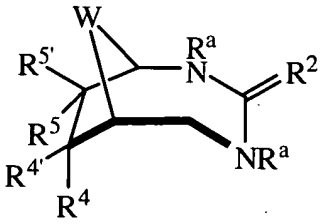
7 (A)



7 (B)



7 (C)



8 (A)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

(a) each $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), ~~psuedohalogen~~ pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] [[-]]$NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is hydrogen;

(b) each $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), ~~psuedohalogen~~ pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] $NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is hydrogen;

(c) each $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, halogenated alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or acyl;

(d) $R^2$ is oxygen, sulfur, [[-]]$NR'_{\pm}$ or [[-]]$CR'_2$, wherein each R' is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(e) [[each]] Z~~, Z' and Z"~~ is ~~independently~~ CH, $CX_{\pm}$ or N;

(f) each X, $X'_{\pm}$ and X" is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Cl, $Br_{\pm}$ or I), $NH_2$, $NHR^c$, $NR^cR^{c'}$, $NHOR^c$, $NR^cNR^{c'}R^{c''}$, OH, $OR^c$, $SH_{\pm}$ or $SR^c$;

(g) each Y and Y' is independently O, S, NH, $NR^c$, $NOR^c_{\pm}$ or Se;

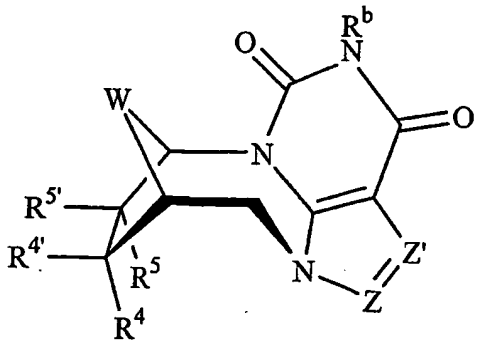
(h) each $R^a$ is independently is hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl$_{\pm}$ or aminoacyl of $C_1$ -$C_6$; [[and]]

(i) each $R^c$, $R^{c'}_{\pm}$ and $R^{c''}$ independently is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, aryl, or arylalkyl such as unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or benzyl, cycloalkyl, ~~cylcopropyl~~ or cyclopropyl; and

(j) W is O or $CH_2$;

optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (Currently Amended): A compound of the general formula:




or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

(a) each $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), ~~psuedohalogen~~ pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] [[-]]$NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^4$ and $R^{4'}$ is hydrogen;

(b) each $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is independently hydrogen, halogen (F, Br, Cl, or I), ~~psuedohalogen~~ pseudohalogen, [[-CN,]] $NO_2$, lower alkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$, halogenated lower alkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxy, $CH_2OH$, $CH_2OR^6$, [[-]]$NH_2$, [[-]]$NR^6R^7$, or a residue of an amino acid; wherein at least one of $R^5$ and $R^{5'}$ is hydrogen;

(c) each $R^6$ and $R^7$ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, halogenated alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or acyl;

(d) $R^2$ is oxygen, sulfur, [[-]]$NR'$, or [[-]]$CR'_2$, wherein each R' is independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;

(e) each Z[[,]] and Z' ~~and Z"~~ is independently CH, CX, or N;

(f) [[each]] X~~, X' and X"~~ is ~~independently~~ hydrogen, halogen (F, Cl, Br, or I), $NH_2$, $NHR^c$, $NR^cR^{c'}$, $NHOR^c$, $NR^cNR^{c'}R^{c''}$, OH, $OR^c$, SH, or $SR^c$;

~~(g) each Y and Y' is O, S, NH, $NR^e$, $NOR^e$ or Se;~~

~~(h) each $R^a$ is hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkylene, alkenyl, carbocycle, aryl, heterocycle, heteroaryl, aralkyl, aminoalkyl, aminoaryl, or aminoacyl of $C_1$-$C_6$;~~

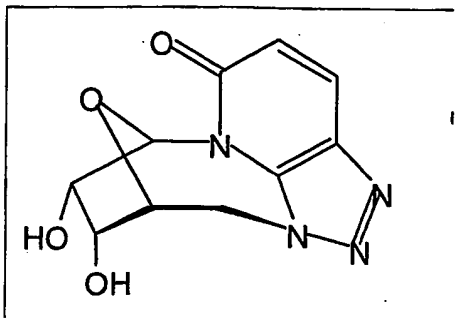
(g[[i]]) $R^b$ is $R^c$, $OR^c$, $NH_2$, $NHR^c$, or ~~$NR^cR^{c'}$~~ $NR^cR^{c'}$; [[and]]

(h[[j]]) each $R^c$, $R^{c'}$, and $R^{c''}$ independently is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, aryl, or arylalkyl such as unsubstituted or substituted phenyl or benzyl, cycloalkyl, ~~cylcopropyl~~ or cyclopropyl; and

(i) W is O or $CH_2$;

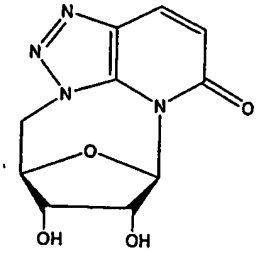
optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (Currently Amended): A compound of the ~~general~~ formula:

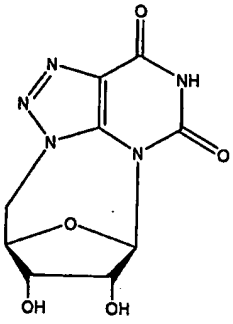



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

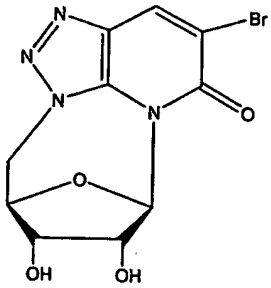
21. (Currently Amended): A compound of the ~~general~~ formula:



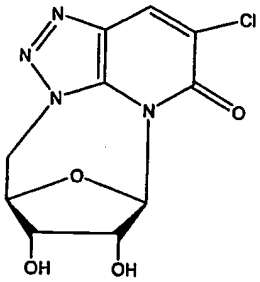
1 (J)



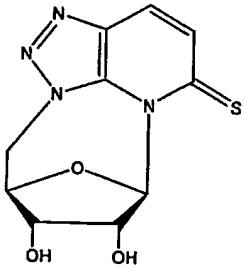
1 (K)



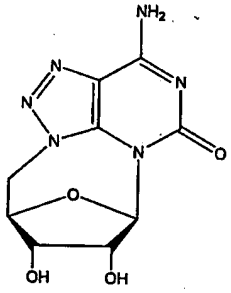
1 (L)



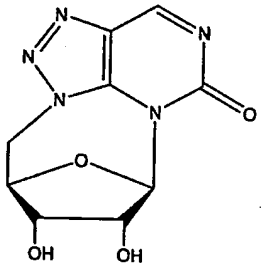
1(M)



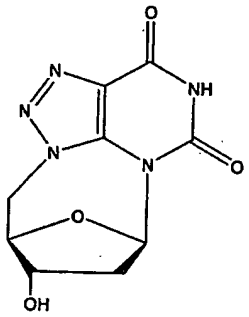
1 (N)



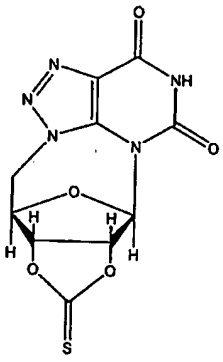
1 (O)



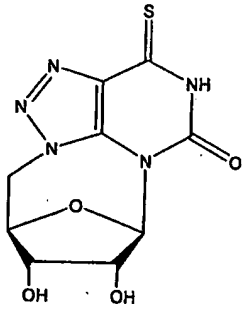
1 (P)



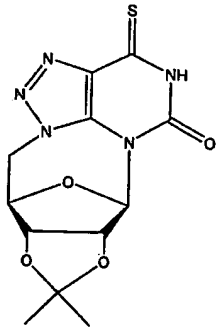
1 (Q)



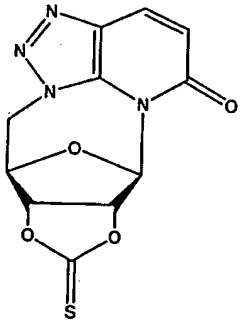
1 (R)



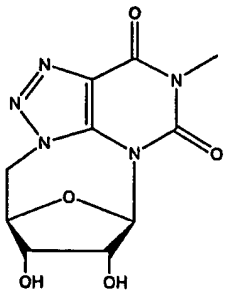
1 (S)



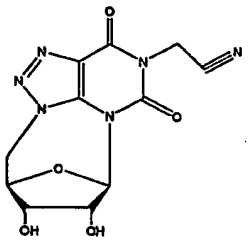
1 (T)



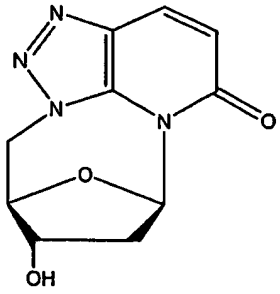
1 (U)



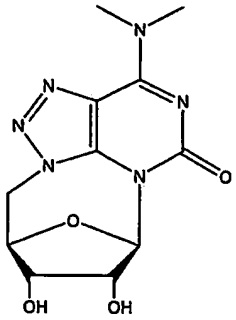
1 (V)



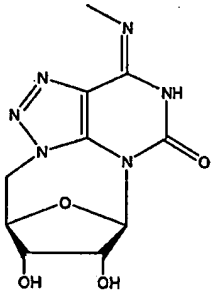
1 (W)



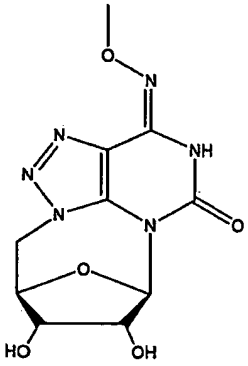
1 (X)



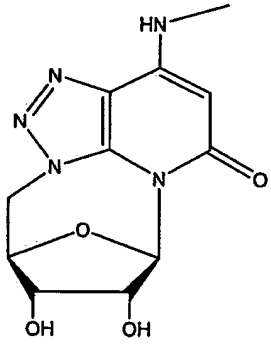
1 (Y)



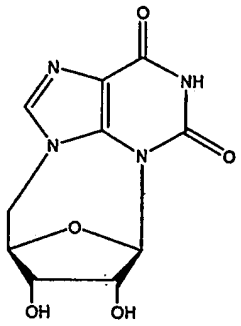
1 (Z)



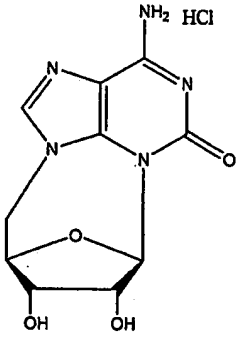
1 (AA)



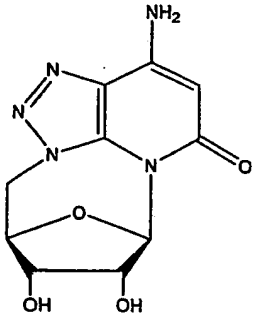
1 (AB)



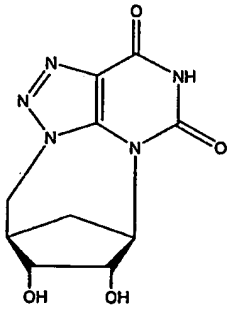
1 (AC)



1 (AD)



1 (AE)



1 (AF)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (Original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of any one of the compounds of claims 13, 18, 19, 20, or 21, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. (Original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of any one of the compounds of claims 13, 18, 19, 20, or 21, together with one or more effective anti-viral agents, optionally with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (Currently Amended): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein the anti-viral agent is selected from the group consisting of ribavirin, interferon, ~~PEGASYS~~ [[(]]pegylated interferon alfa –2a[[)]], ~~INFERGEN~~ [[(]]interferon alfacon-1[[)]], ~~OMNIFERON~~ [[(]]natural interferon[[)]], ~~ALBUFERON~~ albinterferon alpha 2b, ~~REBIF~~ [[(]]interferon beta-1a[[)]], [[O]]omega [[I]]interferon, [[O]]oral [[I]]interferon [[A]]alpha, [[I]]interferon gamma-1b, [[I]]interleukin-10, ~~IP-501,~~ [[M]]merimebodib ~~VX-497~~ , ~~AMANTADINE~~ amantadine ~~(Symmetrel)~~, ~~HEPTAZYME, IDN-6556., XTL-002, HCV/MF59,~~ hepatitis C immune globulin ~~CIVACIR~~, levovirin ~~LEVOVIRIN~~, viramidine ~~VIRAMIDINE, ZADAX1N~~ [[(]]thymosin alfa-1[[)]], ~~CEPLENE~~ [[(]]histamine dihydrochloride[[)]], and telaprevir. ~~VX 950 / LY 570310, ISIS 14803, IDN-6556 and JTK-003.~~